

## CLAIMS

1. A rotation angle calculating method of a wire harness, in which a rotation angle of the wire harness is calculated at an arbitrary measuring point of the wire harness when the wire harness is deformed from a first shape to a second shape while a fixed point of the wire harness is fixed, the rotation angle calculating method, comprising the steps of:

5 setting a plurality of intermediate points between the fixed point and the measuring point of the wire harness in the second shape, wherein the fixed point, the measuring point and the intermediate points are set as nodes  
10 respectively;

setting vectors at the nodes of the wire harness in the second shape as node vectors respectively;

calculating angles, each of which has a rotation direction, wherein each of the angles is defined between the node vectors at the adjoining nodes;  
15 and

adding the angles to each other so as to calculate a rotation angle having a rotation direction at the measuring point.

2. The rotation angle calculating method as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
20 the vectors at the nodes of the wire harness in the second shape are tangent vectors.

3. The rotation angle calculating method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

setting a tangent vector at the measuring point of the wire harness in the first shape as a reference tangent vector; and

setting a tangent vector at the measuring point of the wire harness in the second shape as a final tangent vector,

5 wherein the vectors at the intermediate points of the nodes of the wire harness in the second shape are sequence of points vectors which are obtained from lines connecting the respective adjoining nodes of the wire harness in the second shape; and

10 wherein in the angles calculating step, an angle defined between the reference tangent vector and the sequence of points vector at the fixed point as a starting point, an angle having a rotation angle, which is defined between the respective sequence of points vectors at the respective adjoining intermediate points of the nodes as starting points; and an angle having a rotation angle, which is defined between the sequence of points vector directed to the 15 measuring point and the final tangent vector are calculated.

4. The rotation angle calculating method as set forth in claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

20 setting a virtual shape having a linear shape which extends in a direction of a tangent vector at the fixed point in a case that both the first shape and the second shape of the wire harness are non-linear shapes;

calculating a first rotation angle at the measuring point in a case that the wire harness is deformed from the virtual shape to the first shape while the fixed point of the wire harness is fixed by performing the node setting step, the

vector setting step, the angles calculating step and the angles adding step;  
calculating a second rotation angle at the measuring point in a case  
that the wire harness is deformed from the virtual shape to the second shape  
while the fixed point of the wire harness is fixed by performing the node setting  
5 step, the vector setting step, the angles calculating step and the angles adding  
step; and

calculating a rotation angle having the rotation direction at the  
measuring point in a case that the wire harness is deformed from the first shape  
to the second shape based on the first and second rotation angles.

10 5. The rotation angle calculating method as set forth in claim 3, further  
comprising:

setting a virtual shape having a linear shape which extends in a  
direction of a tangent vector at the fixed point in a case that both the first shape  
15 and the second shape of the wire harness are non-linear shapes;

calculating a first rotation angle at the measuring point in a case that  
the wire harness is deformed from the virtual shape to the first shape while the  
fixed point of the wire harness is fixed by performing the node setting step, the  
vector setting step, the reference tangent vector setting step, the final tangent  
20 vector setting step, the angles calculating step and the angles adding step;

calculating a second rotation angle at the measuring point in a case  
that the wire harness is deformed from the virtual shape to the second shape  
while the fixed point of the wire harness is fixed by performing the node setting  
step, the vector setting step, the reference tangent vector setting step, the final

tangent vector setting step, the angles calculating step and the angles adding step; and

calculating a rotation angle having the rotation direction at the measuring point in a case that the wire harness is deformed from the first shape 5 to the second shape based on the first and second rotation angles.

6. The rotation angle calculating method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the plurality of nodes are set on a center line of the wire harness.

10 7. The rotation angle calculating method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a distance between the adjoining nodes is set as following formula; wherein, the distance  $R$  is smaller than  $\pi \cdot d/2$ ; and "d" is a diameter of the wire harness.

15 8. A computer-readable recording medium, which causes a computer to execute the rotation angle calculating method as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 7.

9. A rotation angle calculating apparatus for calculating a rotation angle 20 of the wire harness at an arbitrary measuring point of the wire harness when the wire harness is deformed from a first shape to a second shape while a fixed point of the wire harness is fixed, the rotation angle calculating apparatus, comprising:

a node setting unit, which sets a plurality of intermediate points

between the fixed point and the measuring point of the wire harness in the second shape, wherein the fixed point, the measuring point and the intermediate points are set as nodes respectively;

- 5        a node vector setting unit, which sets vectors at the nodes of the wire harness in the second shape as node vectors respectively;
- an angles calculating unit, which calculates angles, each of which has a rotation direction, wherein each of the angles is defined between the vectors at the adjoining nodes; and
- 10      an angles adding unit, which adds the angles to each other so as to calculate a rotation angle having a rotation direction at the measuring point.